

MAU34403: Quantum Mechanics I

Homework 2 due 30/09/2021

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Problem 1

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{a}^\dagger |n\rangle &= \hat{U} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{U}^\dagger |n\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{i,j} U_{ij} |i\rangle \langle j| \hat{a}^\dagger \sum_{k,l} U_{lk}^* |k\rangle \langle l|n\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{i,j,k} U_{ij} U_{nk}^* |i\rangle \langle j| \hat{a}^\dagger |k\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{i,j,k} \sqrt{k+1} U_{ij} U_{nk}^* |i\rangle \langle j|k+1\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{i,k} \sqrt{k+1} U_{i,k+1} U_{nk}^* |i\rangle \\
 \text{also } \hat{a}^\dagger |n\rangle &= \sqrt{n+1} e^{-i\phi_n} |n+1\rangle \\
 \implies U_{i,k+1} U_{nk}^* &= \begin{cases} e^{-i\phi_n} & \text{if } i = n+1, k = n \\ 0 & \forall i \neq n+1, k \neq n \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since this holds for any n , the only entries in $\hat{U}$ that are non-zero are the diagonal entries, i.e. $\hat{U}$ is diagonal. Since $\hat{U}$ is unitary, we must have that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{U} \hat{U}^\dagger &= \hat{I} \\
 \implies U_{ii} U_{ii}^* &= 1 \\
 \implies |U_{ii}| &= 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

We can thus express any entry of the diagonal matrix as $U_{jj} = e^{i\theta_j}$. Since we also have that $U_{j+1,j+1} U_{jj}^* = e^{-i\phi_j}$. We can then do the calculation

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_{j+1,j+1} U_{jj}^* &= e^{-i\phi_j} \\
 &= e^{i(\theta_{j+1} - \theta_j)} \\
 \implies \theta_j - \theta_{j+1} &= \phi_j.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since we are asked to find any unitary operator that relates the two sets of creation and annihilation operators, we can define one of the θ_j to be an arbitrary real number. Setting

$$\begin{aligned}
 \theta_0 &= 0, \\
 \theta_1 &= \theta_0 - \phi_0 = -\phi_0, \\
 \theta_2 &= \theta_1 - \phi_1 = -\phi_0 - \phi_1, \\
 \theta_3 &= \theta_2 - \phi_2 = -\phi_0 - \phi_1 - \phi_2, \\
 &\dots \\
 \implies \theta_j &= -\sum_{l=1}^j \phi_{l-1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

This gives us a unitary operator

$$\hat{U} = \sum_{j,k=0}^{\infty} \delta_{jk} e^{i\theta_j} |j\rangle \langle k| \quad \text{where } \theta_j = -\sum_{l=1}^j \phi_{l-1}, \text{ with } \theta_0 \equiv 0$$

Problem 2

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{L}_1 |n\rangle &= \frac{i}{2} (\hat{a}\hat{a} |n\rangle + \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}^\dagger |n\rangle) \\
&= \frac{i}{2} (\sqrt{n} e^{i\phi_{n-1}} \hat{a} |n-1\rangle + \sqrt{n+1} e^{-i\phi_n} \hat{a}^\dagger |n+1\rangle) \\
&= \frac{i}{2} \left(\sqrt{n(n-1)} e^{i(\phi_{n-1}+\phi_{n-2})} |n-2\rangle + \sqrt{(n+1)(n+2)} e^{-i(\phi_n+\phi_{n+1})} |n+2\rangle \right)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{L}_2 |n\rangle &= \frac{i}{2} (\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} |n\rangle + \hat{a}\hat{a}^\dagger |n\rangle) \\
&= \frac{i}{2} (\sqrt{n} e^{i\phi_{n-1}} \hat{a}^\dagger |n-1\rangle + \sqrt{n+1} e^{-i\phi_n} \hat{a}^\dagger |n+1\rangle) \\
&= \frac{i}{2} \left(\sqrt{n}\sqrt{n} e^{i(\phi_{n-1}-\phi_{n-1})} |n\rangle + \sqrt{n+1}\sqrt{n+1} e^{-i(\phi_n-\phi_n)} |n\rangle \right) \\
&= \frac{i(2n+1)}{2} |n\rangle
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{L}_3 |n\rangle &= \frac{1}{2} (\hat{a}\hat{a} |n\rangle - \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}^\dagger |n\rangle) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} (\sqrt{n} e^{i\phi_{n-1}} \hat{a} |n-1\rangle - \sqrt{n+1} e^{-i\phi_n} \hat{a}^\dagger |n+1\rangle) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{n(n-1)} e^{i(\phi_{n-1}+\phi_{n-2})} |n-2\rangle - \sqrt{(n+1)(n+2)} e^{-i(\phi_n+\phi_{n+1})} |n+2\rangle \right)
\end{aligned}$$

Problem 4

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{b}_1(t) &= \hat{U}_1(t) \hat{a} \hat{U}_1^\dagger(t) \\ \frac{d\hat{b}_1}{dt} &= \left(\frac{d\hat{U}_1}{dt} \right) \hat{a} \hat{U}_1^\dagger(t) + \hat{U}_1(t) \hat{a} \left(\frac{d\hat{U}_1^\dagger}{dt} \right)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{U}_1(t) &= e^{t\hat{L}_1} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} \hat{L}_1^k \\ &= 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} \hat{L}_1^k \\ \frac{d\hat{U}_1}{dt} &= 0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{k t^{k-1}}{k!} \hat{L}_1^k \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^{k-1}}{(k-1)!} \hat{L}_1^k \\ &= \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} \hat{L}_1^k \right) \hat{L}_1 \\ &= \hat{U}_1(t) \hat{L}_1 \\ \hat{U}_1^\dagger(t) &= e^{t\hat{L}_1^\dagger} \\ &= e^{-t\hat{L}_1} \\ &= 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k t^k}{k!} \hat{L}_1^k \\ \frac{d\hat{U}_1^\dagger}{dt} &= 0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{k(-1)^k t^{k-1}}{k!} \hat{L}_1^k \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k t^{k-1}}{(k-1)!} \hat{L}_1^k \\ &= -\hat{L}_1 \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k t^k}{k!} \hat{L}_1^k \right) \\ &= -\hat{L}_1 \hat{U}_1^\dagger(t)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow \frac{d\hat{b}_1}{dt} &= \hat{U}_1(t) \hat{L}_1 \hat{a} \hat{U}_1^\dagger(t) - \hat{U}_1(t) \hat{a} \hat{L}_1 \hat{U}_1^\dagger(t) \\ &= \hat{U}_1(t) [\hat{L}_1, \hat{a}] \hat{U}_1^\dagger(t)\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, since $\hat{b}_1^\dagger(t) = \hat{U}_1(t) \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{U}_1^\dagger(t)$, and the above manipulations do not depend on or alter $\hat{a}$,

$$\frac{d\hat{b}_1^\dagger}{dt} = \hat{U}_1(t) [\hat{L}_1, \hat{a}^\dagger] \hat{U}_1^\dagger(t)$$

$$\begin{aligned}[\hat{L}_1, \hat{a}] &= \left[\frac{i}{2} (\hat{a}\hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}^\dagger), \hat{a} \right] \\ &= \frac{i}{2} ([\hat{a}\hat{a}, \hat{a}] + [\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{a}]) \\ &= \frac{i}{2} (0 + \hat{a}^\dagger [\hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{a}] + [\hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{a}] \hat{a}^\dagger) \\ &= \frac{i}{2} (-\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{I} - \hat{I} \hat{a}^\dagger) \\ &= -i \hat{a}^\dagger \\ [\hat{L}_1, \hat{a}^\dagger] &= \left[\frac{i}{2} (\hat{a}\hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}^\dagger), \hat{a}^\dagger \right] \\ &= \frac{i}{2} ([\hat{a}\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] + [\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{a}^\dagger]) \\ &= \frac{i}{2} (\hat{a} [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] + [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] \hat{a} + 0) \\ &= \frac{i}{2} (\hat{a} \hat{I} + \hat{I} \hat{a}) \\ &= i \hat{a}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\hat{b}_1}{dt} &= \hat{U}_1(t) (-i \hat{a}^\dagger) \hat{U}_1^\dagger(t) \\ &= -i \hat{b}_1^\dagger(t) \\ \frac{d^2\hat{b}_1}{dt^2} &= -i \frac{d\hat{b}_1^\dagger}{dt} \\ &= -i (i \hat{b}_1(t)) \\ &= \hat{b}_1(t) \\ \frac{d\hat{b}_1^\dagger}{dt} &= \hat{U}_1(t) (i \hat{a}) \hat{U}_1^\dagger(t) \\ &= i \hat{b}_1(t) \\ \frac{d^2\hat{b}_1^\dagger}{dt^2} &= i \frac{d\hat{b}_1}{dt} \\ &= i (-i \hat{b}_1^\dagger(t)) \\ &= \hat{b}_1^\dagger(t)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Let } \hat{b}_1(t) &= c_1(t)\hat{a} + d_1(t)\hat{a}^\dagger \\
\frac{d\hat{b}_1}{dt} &= \frac{dc_1}{dt}\hat{a} + \frac{dd_1}{dt}\hat{a}^\dagger \\
\text{Also, } \frac{d\hat{b}_1}{dt} &= -i\hat{b}_1^\dagger(t) \\
&= -i c_1^*(t)\hat{a}^\dagger - i d_1^*(t)\hat{a} \\
\implies \frac{dc_1}{dt} &= -i d_1^*(t) \\
\text{and } \frac{dd_1}{dt} &= -i c_1^*(t)
\end{aligned}$$

Assume an ansatz for $c_1(t)$ and $d_1(t)$ of the form

$$c_1(t) = \alpha_c e^{\chi_c t} + \beta_c e^{-\psi_c t}, \quad d_1(t) = \alpha_d e^{\chi_d t} + \beta_d e^{-\psi_d t}.$$

Since we know

$$\frac{d^2 c_1}{dt^2} = c_1(t), \quad \frac{d^2 d_1}{dt^2} = d_1(t),$$

we know that $\chi_c = \psi_c = \chi_d = \psi_d = 1$, i.e. t does not have a coefficient. This gives us

$$c_1(t) = \alpha_c e^t + \beta_c e^{-t}, \quad d_1(t) = \alpha_d e^t + \beta_d e^{-t}.$$

Since we know

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dc_1}{dt} &= -i d_1^* \\
\implies \alpha_c e^t - \beta_c e^{-t} &= -i \alpha_d^* e^{-t} - i \beta_d^* e^t \\
\implies \alpha_c &= -i \beta_d^* \\
\text{and } \beta_c &= i \alpha_d^*.
\end{aligned}$$

This gives us

$$c_1(t) = -i \beta_d^* e^t + i \alpha_d^* e^{-t} \quad d_1(t) = \alpha_d e^t + \beta_d e^{-t}.$$

We can equate the two expressions we have for $\hat{b}_1^\dagger(t)$ and pick some value for t to solve for the remaining unknown parameters, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{b}_1^\dagger(t) &= \hat{U}_1(t) \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{U}_1^\dagger(t) \\
&= e^{t\hat{L}_1} \hat{a}^\dagger e^{-t\hat{L}_1} \\
\text{Also, } \hat{b}_1^\dagger(t) &= c_1^*(t) \hat{a}^\dagger + d_1^*(t) \hat{a} \\
\hat{b}_1^\dagger(0) &= e^0 \hat{a}^\dagger e^0 = c_1^*(0) \hat{a}^\dagger + d_1^*(0) \hat{a} \\
\implies d_1^*(0) &= \alpha_d^* + \beta_d^* = 0 \\
&\implies \beta_d = -\alpha_d \\
\text{Also, } c_1^*(0) &= i \beta_d - i \alpha_d = 1 \\
&\implies \alpha_d = \frac{i}{2} \\
&\implies \beta_d = -\frac{i}{2}
\end{aligned}$$

We can then rewrite $c_1(t)$ and $d_1(t)$ as

$$\begin{aligned}
c_1(t) &= -i \frac{i}{2} e^t + i \left(-\frac{i}{2}\right) e^{-t} & d_1(t) &= \frac{i}{2} e^t - \frac{i}{2} e^{-t} \\
&= \frac{1}{2} (e^t + e^{-t}) & &= \frac{i}{2} (e^t - e^{-t}) \\
&= \cosh(t) & &= i \sinh(t)
\end{aligned}$$

We can therefore express $\hat{b}_1(t)$ and $\hat{b}_1^\dagger(t)$ as

$$\hat{b}_1(t) = \cosh(t) \hat{a} + i \sinh(t) \hat{a}^\dagger \quad \hat{b}_1^\dagger(t) = \cosh(t) \hat{a}^\dagger - i \sinh(t) \hat{a}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{b}_1(t), \hat{b}_1^\dagger(t)] &= [\cosh(t) \hat{a} + i \sinh(t) \hat{a}^\dagger, \cosh(t) \hat{a}^\dagger - i \sinh(t) \hat{a}] \\ &= [\cosh(t) \hat{a}, \cosh(t) \hat{a}^\dagger] + [\cosh(t) \hat{a}, -i \sinh(t) \hat{a}] \\ &\quad + [i \sinh(t) \hat{a}^\dagger, \cosh(t) \hat{a}^\dagger] + [i \sinh(t) \hat{a}^\dagger, -i \sinh(t) \hat{a}] \\ &= \cosh^2(t) [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] - i \cosh(t) \sinh(t) [\hat{a}, \hat{a}] + i \cosh(t) \sinh(t) [\hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{a}^\dagger] + \sinh^2(t) [\hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{a}] \\ &= \cosh^2(t) \hat{I} - 0 + 0 - \sinh^2(t) \hat{I} \\ &= \hat{I}, \end{aligned}$$

and so $\hat{b}_1(t)$ and $\hat{b}_1^\dagger(t)$ satisfy the canonical commutation relation.